

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DRC-01 L-03 PA-01
ICA-11 ITC-01 EA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 AGR-01 CIAE-00
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN (3909 VICE 4909)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, NO
SUBJ: NORWAY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR GLOBAL TEXTILE QUOTA

1. THE NORWEGIAN COMMERCE AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT ON JULY 28 ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPOSE A GLOBAL QUOTA ON CERTAIN TEXTILE IMPORTS MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE EC AND EFTA AREA. THE QUOTA IS TO ENCOMPASS SUCH PRODUCTS AS SHIRTTs, BLOUSES, T-SHIRTS, KNITTED UNDERWEAR AND SWEATERS, WOVEN JACKETS AND TROUSERS, WOVEN SHIRTS AND BLOUSES, CHILDRENS' OUTERWEAR AND BED LINENS.

2. AT THIS POINT THE GON IS ASKING ONLY THAT IMPORTERS REGISTER PREVIOUS IMPORTS OF SUCH PRODUCTS IN 1976 AND 1977 WITH THE COMMERCE MINISTER BY 31 AUGUST, 1978 (BY PRODUCT AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.) THE GLOBAL QUOTA AND ALLOCATIONS WITHIN IT FOR IMPORTS IN 1979 WILL BE BASED ON THESE FIGURES.

3. COMMENT: CONCERNED MFA OFFICIALS (ERIK SELMER AND KNUT BURGER) ASSURE US THAT THE MOVE TO A GLOBAL QUOTA (A LA
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CANADA) AS NORWAY NOTIFIED THE GATT IN JUNE IT MIGHT DO IS A QUOTE LAST RESORT UNQUOTE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IF NO SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT ON REDUCED TEXTILE IMPORTS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH HONG KONG. THE DECISION TO TAKE INITIAL STEPS TOWARD A GLOBAL QUOTA AT THIS TIME IT IS HOPED WILL PUT PRESSURE ON HONG KONG PRIOR TO THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER AS QUOTE HONG KONG CANNOT COMPETE WITH

SOUTH KOREA UNDER A GLOBAL QUOTA. UNQUOTE

4. SELMER AND BURGER ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF NORWAY'S GOING TO A GLOBAL QUOTA SYSTEM. THEY SEEM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD DO TO THEIR PRESENT TEXTILE BILATERALS WITH COUNTRIES OTHER THAN HONG KONG, THE DISCRIMINATION IN THEIR PROPOSAL IN FAVOR OF THE EC AND EFTA (REQUIRED UNDER EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENTS), AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NORWEGIAN TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS WILL LOBBY VERY HARD TO RETAIN THE SYSTEM FOR ALL TIME ONCE IT IS IMPOSED. THE GON IS CLEARLY HOPING THAT HONG KONG WILL AGREE IN SEPTEMBER TO A REDUCED LEVEL OF TEXTILE EXPORTS TO NORWAY- DESPITE THE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES HONG KONG HAS IN PRINCIPLE WITH ANY SUGGESTION OF TEXTILE IMPORT RESTRAINTS BELOW HISTORICAL LEVEL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON THE POSITION WE SHOULD TAKE WITH REGARD TO THE GON'S EXEMPTION FOR EC AND EFTA MEMBERS (BUT NOT THE U.S.) IF A GLOBAL QUOTA IS ADOPTED.
BREMER

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Message Attributes

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